

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

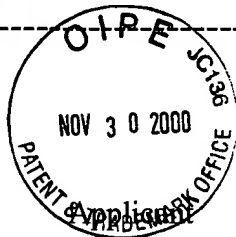
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 27, 2000

FULBRIGHT &amp; JAWORSKI L.L.P.

By Gisette Crosson

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2000



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE TECH CENTER 1600/2900

: Laura Dumoutier, et al.

Application No. : 09/626,617

Filed : July 27, 2000

For : ISOLATED NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES WHICH ENCODE T CELL INDUCIBLE FACTORS, OR INTERLEUKIN-21, THE PROTEINS ENCODED, AND USES THEREOF

November 27, 2000

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT (37 CFR § 1.56, § 1.97)**

In accordance with their duty of disclosure, applicants make the accompanying references of record in this application.

International Application No. PCT/US99/11644 (International Publication No. WO99/61617) to Ruben, et al., is entitled "Interleukins-21 and 22." Review of the document will show that there is confusion in the field. If the sequences for "IL-21" and "IL-22" as disclosed herein are compared to the sequences in the above referenced application, they will be seen to be different.

International Application No. PCT/US00/11479 (International Publication No. WO00/65027), to Jacobs, et al., is not prior art. It is cited because it is believed that SEQ ID NO:2 is identical to SEQ ID NO: 43 of the subject application; however, SEQ ID NO: 43 was first described in applicants' priority application 09/178,973, filed October 26, 1998. It is thus believed that the subject PCT document is not art in any context.

Parrish-Novak, et al., "Interleukin-21 and its receptor are involved in NK cell expansion and regulation of lymphocyte function," Nature 408:57-63 (November 2, 2000), is not prior art, but is cited to complete the record in view of the reference therein to IL-21. Note that a sequence

comparison will show that the molecule in this reference differs from what is disclosed in the subject application.

Xie, et al., "Interleukin (IL-22), a Novel Human Cytokine That Signals Through the Interleukin Receptor - related proteins CRF 2-4 and IL-22R." J. Biol. Chem 275 (40):51335-51339 (October 6, 2000) is not prior art, as it was published after the filing date of the subject application. The molecule referred to as IL-22, as set forth in figure IA, is believed to be identical to SEQ ID NO: 43; however a proper priority claim is made to October 1998, well before the article.

It is believed that the subject matter claimed is patentable over the references provided herein, and a holding to that end is urged.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

By: 

Norman D. Hanson  
Reg. No. 30,946

666 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10103  
(212) 318-3000